

Alice Lauper's Baptism

Alice had many friends in the National Church where she had been attending seminary, including the minister. She knew that what the LDS missionaries had taught her was true but she wanted to complete the seminary bible class and graduate with her friends before being baptized. When she completed the course a year later she regretted her decision because the missionaries had moved on and there was no one around to perform the baptism.

She suddenly felt that this was the most important thing she had to do and was beginning to think that she had missed her chance to become a member of the true church. She waited with an anxious heart for some time till word came that a missionary, Elder Cannon, would be traveling through the area and a baptism date was scheduled for the following Sunday, February 4, 1897, at the shores of Lake Geneva .

As Sunday arrived a great storm was brewing over the lake and the blowing wind was causing great waves to crash upon the shore. When Elder Cannon saw the waves and the fierce storm he told Alice that it might be wiser to reschedule the baptism for the following week. Alice had waited for this day long enough and she felt like she could wait no longer and said, *"I am not afraid if you are not."* Elder Cannon was impressed by the courage and faith of Alice so he took her hand and they walked into the water.

After they had gone several feet into the water a large wave came and about swept Alice under. She wrote, The wind was severe and the waves raged high, but nothing could stop me from doing what I knew to be right." Suddenly, after being knocked down by the wave, everything seemed peaceful and quiet. While the storm raged all around them there was a large circle all around Alice and Elder Cannon where the water was calm and smooth as a mirror during the baptism. The Spirit was very strong as Alice and Elder Cannon walked back to the shore and her mother started singing Nearer My God to Thee. The rest of the congregation quickly joined in.



Alice Louise Lauper Pernoux Phillips